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Trueblood

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[54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SHARING INPUT DEVICES AMONGST PLURAL INDEPENDENT GRAPHIC DISPLAY DEVICES**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **345/331**; 345/145; 345/340

[58] **Field of Search** 395/326–358; 345/145–146, 119–120, 2, 157, 160, 163, 326–358

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for using a single keyboard and/or mouse in multi-screen operation with a multiplicity of independent display apparatus. A keyboard and/or mouse is associated with a master work station to which is coupled a display apparatus. One or more other display apparatus are coupled to the same work station or to other work stations which are coupled to the main work station through a local area network or the like. Each display apparatus is driven by separate driver software, such as X-server software. A software construct running in the main work station defines transition boundaries between the various display devices and, as the mouse cursor reaches a transition boundary, it disappears from the first screen and appears on another screen. The keyboard follows the mouse such that its operation affects the screen and work station associated with the display upon which the mouse appears at that time. The software construct intercepts all keyboard and/or mouse data and simulate events, which are transmitted to the work station associated with the selected display terminal.

23 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

Microfiche Appendix Included
(1 Microfiche, 15 Pages)